Amendments To The Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

After the fracture initiation 302, the next step is fracture propagation 304. During the fracture propagation 304, fractures initially opened during fracture initiation 302 are opened further, widening the voids and extending the voids deeper into the heap away from the perforations of the treatment well. The fractures are propagated during the fracture propagation 304 with continued pumping of the fracture fluid into the heap at a flow rate sufficient to maintain an injection pressure in the heap that is high enough to prevent fracture voids from closing and to propagate the fractures further into the heap. During the fracture propagation 304 ~~fracture propagation 306~~, the injection pressure of the fracture fluid is typically held relatively constant, which is accompanied by a generally increasing injection flow rate as the volume of fracture voids continues to increase. Fracture propagation is continued until fractures have been propagated to a desired extent, or until processing conditions otherwise warrant. For example, depending upon conditions in the heap, as the fractures propagate, the injection flow rate for the fracture fluid may be increase to an unsustainable level and further propagation of the fracture will have to be discontinued for practical reasons. Also, the fracture propagation 304 may be discontinued to limit the total amount of fracture fluid introduced into the heap.